Vol. VIII. Numb. 56

THE OBSERVATOR.

On the forcing of the French *Lines, and defeating Part of their Troops in* Savoy. *On the* French *King's refusing to sign the Capitulation of the Cittadel of* Tournay, *desiring a Cessation of Arms, and the renewing of the Treaty of Peace. The Handles he has to sow Divisions among the Confederates. On the ill Posture of his Affairs, the Tumults of his Soldiers at* Ypres, *and the Design to carry his Ships from* Dunkirk *to* Haver du Grace. *On the Defeat of the Swedes, and its Consequences. The Use the* French *King may probably make of it. The Mischiefs of arbitrary Power, prov'd from the Instance of* Sweden.

From Wednesday, August 10. to Saturday, August 13. 1709.

Country-m. WELL, Master, I have a Fighting-Story for you now from *Savoy*. The *Flanders* Mails bring Advice, that the *Germans* attack'd the *French* at *Conflans* in *Savoy*, forc'd their Lines, kill'd them above 1000 Men, and are now Masters of those Passes; nay, some of the Advices say, the *French* have abandon'd *Chamberry*, and that the Confederates are Masters of *Annecy*, and several other Towns. Pray give me an Account of those Places, Master, for I am no Geographer, and let me have your Thoughts on the News.

Obs. With all my Heart, *Roger*; for if all that News holds good, as I hope it may, the Duke of *Savoy* is re-possess'd of all, or at least most Part of his own Dutchy, from whence he has his Title; for *Chamberry* is the Capital of it, and lies about 27 Miles South West from *Conflans*, where the Lines were forc'd, and *Annecy* is another considerable Town about 25 Miles North West from it; but I am afraid, that the News of his being re-possess'd of those Towns, may be somewhat too quick, considering their Distance from *Conflans*, and that lying near the Confines of *France*, 'tis probable that they may be tolerably well provided, and that the Remainder of the *French* Troops under the Marquis *de Thoy*, would retire to them, if they were not able to keep the Field. However, 'tis not impossible, that the *French* Troops, which are every where dispirited, and in Want of Provisions and Pay, may have abandon'd them, upon the forcing of their Lines; and if it be so, the Duke of *Savoy* has his Way open on that Side, either to invade *Burgundy*, the *Lionnois*, or *Dauphine*; and I hope, that this auspicious Beginning of the Campaign, will hasten him to his Army, to pursue the Blow; and that since the *Imperialists* have added this remarkable Service to the many others they have done him, 'twill likewise hasten an Accommodation betwixt the Emperor and the Duke, of the Differences that seem to have been betwixt them for a Time, about the Duke's Claim to some more Territories than he has already receiv'd, as a Compensation for his Service to the common Cause.

Country-m. I wish it may, Master; for 'tis Pity the publick Interest should suffer for private Views, tho' there's too much of that in the World now-a-days among Princes and States, as well as those of an inferior Rank. Pray God there may be nothing of it nearer Home. I must also desire your Opinion, Master, of the News from *Flanders*, that the *French* King refus'd to sign the Capitulation of the Cittadel of *Tournay*, except a Cessation of Arms were granted betwixt the Armies 'till the 5th of the next Month, and the Treaty of Peace set on foot again; which the Allies have rejected, and are now attacking the Cittadel with Vigor.

Obs. You have had my Opinion long ago, *Roger*, about treating with the *French* King. The whole Course of his Reign, has been one continu'd Piece of Treachery; and as he began with Perfidiousness, he is likely to end with it. Therefore he ought not to be allow'd one Hour's Time; nor should his deceitful Proposals be listen'd to, 'till he has actually sign'd what the Confederates demand, and be render'd unable to break Terms with us if he would. His Business is to gain Time, that he may put his disorder'd Affairs in a better Posture, and try his old Experiment of dividing the Allies among themselves; for which I am sorry to find he has so many Handles every where. We may be sure, that he is not wanting to foment the Differences betwixt the Emperor and the Duke of *Savoy*, about the latter's Pretentions; that he will do the same betwixt the Court of *Vienna*, and the Princes of *Germany*, both Protestants and Papists. The Business of *Silesia* affords him but too good a Handle to embroil that Court and the former, and his Interest with the Jesuits, and other Popish Ecclesiasticks, give him the like Advantage to embroil them with the latter. The Popish Clergy have too great an Interest in the Diet, and other publick Councils of the Empire; as we have found to our Cost, by the Slackness of the *Germans* to defend their own Country, or to promote the common Cause as they ought to have done. Then, as to the *Dutch*, we know, that he has formerly been successful by Ways and Means known to himself, to engage them in Treaties with too much Precipitancy, to the Disadvantage of their Allies. The Unhappiness of their Constitution, which consists of so many distinct Sovereignties, each of which have a Negative in publick Resolves, has been of Use to him, both to hinder their acting with a becoming Vigor, and to promote separate Interests among them. We find that he is hard at Work by his Emissaries, to create in them Jealousies of their Confederates, and especially of us, because of our maritime Power, and Concern in Trade; and if Proposals of as large a Barrier as we can desire, and of what other Advantages 'tis in his Power, or his Grandson the Duke of *Anjou*, to grant them, with Relation to Commerce, can have any Effect, to be sure they will not be wanting.

Country-m. I am sorry for these Things, Master, but am convinc'd, there's too much Truth in what you say. The pretended Letter we had lately published in one of our Prints, *From a Member of the Great Council of* Geneva, *to a Burgomaster of* Amsterdam, *is a pregnant Testimony of the Artifices of the* French *Court to create Jealousies in the* Dutch, *both of us and the House of* Austria. And if either large Promises to the Publick, or Bribes to private Persons, can effect it, we may be sure they will not be wanting.

Obs. We may be positive as to that, *Roger*. Therefore I hope the Allies will make Haste now while they have such an Advantage of that mighty perfidious Monarch. Heaven continues still to declare on our Side; the Plunders committed by his Soldiers at *Ypres*, and their obstinate Continuance in it, is so plain an Instance of his Want of Money, and that his tyrannical Power is growing to a Contempt among its own Subjects, that if the Confederates would act with the same Vigor on all

Sides, as we and the *Dutch* have done in the *Netherlands*; and if once Circumſtances would allow us to proportion our Efforts by Sea, to thoſe by Land, we have Reaſon to hope, that the exorbitant Power of *France* would ſoon be reduc'd ſo low as to be no more terrible to its Neighbours.

Country-m. I do think, Maſter, that the Orders the *French* King has given, to take all the Corn from the Monaſteries, and private Perſons at *Valenciennes*, to furniſh his own Magazines, is another Proof of his deſperate Circumſtances; and therefore, if the Allies puſh him with Vigor on all Sides, we have Reaſon to expect a general Revolt of his Army, which muſt neceſſarily be follow'd by that of his Subjects. Pray, Maſter, what's your Opinion, that his People are at work Night and Day, to carry his Ships from *Dunkirk* to *Havre du Grace*? Do you think he is afraid we ſhall beſiege *Dunkirk*? Or can his Ships be more ſafe at *Havre du Grace*, than there?

Obſ. 'Tis certain, *Roger*, that he is in no Condition to relieve *Dunkirk*, either by Sea or Land, ſhould we attack it; but the Place is ſo ſtrong, the Seaſon ſo far advanc'd, and the blocking it up by Sea, ſo difficult, becauſe of the unſafe riding before it, becauſe of the Winds, which are common in thoſe Parts of the World, at this Time of the Year, that I can't think he apprehends the Siege of that Place; and as for *Havre du Grace*, though it be one of the beſt Harbours he has in his Channel, and the Town well fortify'd and defended by a Citadel, 'tis not comparable to *Dunkirk*, neither for ſecuring his Fleet, nor for annoying of *England* and *Holland*; but ſince it lies at the Mouth of the *Seyne*, which runs thro' *Paris*, if it be true, that he is removing his Ships thither, 'twould rather ſeem, that he is afraid of a Deſcent upon his Coaſts, and that he would have them in a Readineſs there, to prevent it as well as he can; but we have Reaſon to hope, that our Fleet being in a good Condition, and in a great Forwardneſs, as we are inform'd by the *Gazette*, we may either hinder his *Dunkirk*-Squadons getting out, or make them come ſhort Home.

Country-m. Pray, Maſter, what do you think of the Poſture of Affairs in the North? For if the News by the laſt *Flanders* Mails be true, the *Swedes* are certainly routed, and King *Auguſtus* is going to repoſſeſs himſelf of *Poland*.

Obſ. That News not being confirm'd by our *Gazette*, *Roger*, we cannot be poſitive, tho' a Thing ſo often repeated, and with ſuch Circumſtances, ſeldom proves falſe. But be the Matter as it will, I am afraid of the gathering of Clouds on that Side, except the Confederates take ſpecial Care to keep a good Ballance in thoſe Parts; for ſince the *French* King has no more Reaſon to expect any Advantage by the Mediation of *Sweden*, he will be ſure to blow the Coals, in order to ſet the neighbouring Princes together by the Ears, about their Pretenſions to ſeveral Parts of the *Swediſh* Dominions in the Empire, and elſewhere, in order to give the Allies a Diverſion, and procure a Breathing to himſelf. The King of *Denmark*, the King of *Pruſſia*, and King *Auguſtus*, will probably improve this Opportunity of the low Condition of the *Swedes*; and we may be ſure the Czar will not be wanting to do it on his Part; ſo that the maritime Powers muſt be under a Neceſſity of keeping the Ballance even, it being contrary to their Intereſt to ſuffer any one Potentate to grow too great on the *Baltick*, or to ſuffer the Czar of *Muſcovy*, who is poſſeſs'd of ſuch vaſt Dominions, to increaſe his naval Power to any conſiderable Height on this Side of the World; for if he himſelf ſhould live long, and improve his Subjects in Navigation and military Diſcipline, as he has begun to do; or if his Succeſſors ſhou'd follow his Steps, that Monarchy may prove very dangerous to all the North Parts of *Europe*. In the mean Time, *Roger*, we may ſee the miſchievous Effects of arbitrary and deſpotical Power every where, and what the *Swedes* have got by entruſting their Kings with it, contrary to their ancient Conſtitution. Had the States of that Kingdom preſerv'd their Power, and not baſely ſurrender'd it, as they did in 1680 and 1683, *when they abſolv'd him from governing by the Advice of the Senate, declar'd him accountable to none but God for his Actions, and gave him a Power to alter the Laws in Being, and to make what other Conſtitutions he thought fit*, their King could not have thus ruin'd himſelf and endanger'd the diſmembring and tearing to Pieces of their Monarchy, which now they may have Leiſure to repent of, when they cannot help it. At the ſame Time, this gives us a convincing Proof, that the Abettors of arbitrary Power, inſtead of being the only Friends to Princes, as they would be thought, ſhould be look'd upon as Enemies to Government, and all human Society.

Advertiſements.

☞ A brief Hiſtory of the poor Palatine Refugees, lately arriv'd in England. Containing, 1. A full Anſwer to all Objections made againſt receiving them; and plain and convincing Proofs, that the Acceſſion of Foreigners is a manifeſt Advantage to Great Britain, and no Detriment to any of her Majeſty's native Subjects. 2. A Relation of their deplorable Condition; and how they came to be reduc'd to ſuch Extremities. 3. A Deſcription of the Country from whence they came. 4. An Account of their Numbers. 5. By what Methods they have been ſubſiſted. 6. How they may be diſpos'd of, to the Honour and Service of the Queen's Majeſty, the Glory and Profit of this Kingdom, and the Advantage of themſelves and Poſterities. And 7. An exact Liſt of the Names of the Commiſſioners and Truſtees appointed by her Majeſty, for receiving and diſpoſing of the Money to be collected for the Subſiſtance and Settlement of the ſaid Palatines. In a Letter to a Friend in the Country. Sold by J. Baker at the Black Boy in Pater-Noſter-Row. Price 6 d.

☞ The Royal Decoction, or a never-failing Diet-Drink againſt the Venereal Diſeaſe. Its wonderful Efficacy is ſuch, that any Patient may be thereby moſt effectually cur'd, be it of never ſo long ſtanding, and aggravated by ineffectual Salivations, and the Body be cover'd with Scabs, Ulcers, Blotches, and the Legs with Holes, all the Limbs with moſt excruciating Pains, the Palate eaten away, and the Noſe fallen in, &c. This Anti-venereal Decoction eaſes all the Venereal Pains in 8 Days, and in 30 Days perfects the whole Cure, and that without the Uſe of Mercury. The Gentleman, who alone prepares this Decoction, offers to enter into an Engagement, from 100 to 500 Pounds, for the Performance of what he promiſes, if any Patient, tho' diſcourag'd by other Practitioners, will come to his Houſe, he will furniſh them with Neceſſaries, as well as Phyſick, for 8 Days, and if by that time he is not ſatisfy'd that he may be perfectly cur'd, he is free to leave it, without paying any thing for Lodging, Diet, or Phyſick. The Taſte of this Decoction is ſo pleaſant, and the Operation ſo kind to Nature, that big-belly'd Women and Sucklings are daily cur'd with it at all the Seaſons of the Year. The Doctor or his Wife are to be ſpoken with at all ſeaſonable Hours, at the Hand and Urinal, over againſt little Turn-ſtile in high Holborn, (late the D. of Leeds's.) N.B. The Bill at large is to be ſeen hanging up in the Royal Exchange, London.

At the Grey-hound Inn in Weſt Smithfield, lodgeth Rich. Mooſe, Eſq; Profeſſor of Phyſick and Chirurgery, who has travell'd and practis'd twenty Years in moſt Places of England, Holland, Denmark, the Weſt Indies, and many other Kingdoms, and as a Reward for the wonderful and remarkable Cures he hath perform'd, is admitted to a Reputation under the broad Seal of England, which he hath ſhewn to the Lord Mayor, Phyſicians, and Chirurgeons of the City of London. He doth acquaint all Perſons that do intend to imploy him, that he will give his Advice gratis, and cure the poor Soldiers, Sea-men, Palatines, and all other poor, if curable, (by God's Aſſiſtance) for nothing, of any Diſtemper. He is a charitable, ſober, temperate Man, living in his Chambers until eight at Night, without eating or drinking, except he be ſent for to the Sick. ☞ Note, at the Grey-hound Inn is a two Wheel Chaiſe, which goes with one or two Horſes, which will not over-turn, to be ſold, or let at 7 s. a Day, ſome Abatement if hired by the Week.

☞ Juſt publiſh'd, ☜

QUACKERY UNMASK'D, being a rational and effectual Anſwer to Mr. Marten's Treatiſe of the Venereal Diſeaſe, its Appendix, (for publiſhing which, as appears by the Gazette of the 30th of July, he now ſtands indicted) and the charitable Surgeon. Sold (Price 18 d.) by D. Brown without Temple-Bar, G. Strahan in Cornhill, J. Woodward in St. Chriſtopher's Church-yard, B. Barker in Weſtminſter-hall, Bookſellers; and by the Author, Dr. Spinke, at his Houſe, the Golden Ball in the dark Paſſage, three Doors beyond the Sun Tavern in Honey-Lane Market, Cheapſide. Where alſo may be had, ☞ ANTIVENEREAL-PILLS, &c. (the moſt powerful Medicines for that Diſeaſe yet known) Price 3 s. the Box.

☞ Gentlemen, who have any Thing to communicate to the Author of this Paper, are deſir'd to direct it to be left with H. Meere, Printer, at the Black-Fryar in Black-Fryars, for the Obſervator, Poſt pay'd. Where Advertiſements are taken in.

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